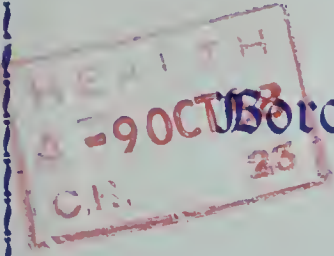


*Lebury*



Borough of Shrewsbury



# REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1957

---

SHREWSBURY  
WILDING & SON LTD., PRINTERS  
CASTLE STREET



# Borough of Shrewsbury



# REPORT


OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

# 1957

---



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30086267>

# BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

---

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. COCK, T.D., J.P. (Chairman)

ALDERMAN A. BENNETT, J.P.	COUNCILLOR R. J. H. EDWARDS
ALDERMAN J. S. McNAMARA	(Vice-Chairman)
ALDERMAN R. H. URWICK, M.D.	COUNCILLOR F. ELLIS
ALDERMAN J. M. WEST,	COUNCILLOR A. H. HOWL
T.D., D.L.	COUNCILLOR H. JELlicoe-WALL
COUNCILLOR H. R. BECKETT	COUNCILLOR W. S. OSBORNE
COUNCILLOR J. F. BURGESS	COUNCILLOR MRS. C. E.
	THICKPENNY

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Medical Officer of Health

† A. C. MACKENZIE, M.D., D.P.H.

### Senior Public Health Inspector

¶†\* C. STANLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

### Additional Public Health Inspectors

¶†\* W. E. QUALTROUGH, Cert. R.S.I.

†\* J. B. BOWDEN, Cert. R.S.I.

†\* J. INNES, Cert. R.S.A.S.

### Chief Clerk

G. T. NICHOLAS

### Abattoir Superintendent and Meat Inspector

\* S. R. REED, Cert. R.S.I.

### Assistant Meat Inspector

\* N. EDGE, Cert. R.S.I.

## PART-TIME OFFICERS

### Meteorological Observer

R. GRAY

### Public Analyst

HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

\* Qualified Meat Inspectors.

¶ Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Contribution towards salary made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer grants.

HEALTH CENTRE,  
MURIVANCE,  
SHREWSBURY,  
August, 1958.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

MADAM MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1957. The report follows the pattern of those of previous years, but a section on the activities of the Old People's Welfare Committee has been added.

My joint appointment as your Medical Officer of Health and as a Medical Officer on the staff of the County Council gives me opportunities to observe the health and welfare of the people of the Borough from a wider viewpoint than is granted to a Medical Officer of Health who is not in close contact with the Local Health Authority in the running of the Part III services of the National Health Act 1946, especially the Child Welfare and School Health Services. Co-operation with the County Medical Officer and his staff has remained excellent. The recently started immunisation schemes against tuberculosis and anterior poliomyelitis have reached such magnitude as to be worthy of the label of campaigns. Immunisation against both these diseases has been accepted to be of value, but so far the acceptance rate for both is rather low.

A regulation which should be of very considerable value in the control of tuberculosis and should cause a sigh of relief from all parents was brought into effect during the year. I refer to the declaration of the Borough as part of a specified area for the sale of designated milk (pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested). This makes the sale of any undesignated milk illegal and, in effect, all milk sold in the Borough can be considered safe.

The Tuberculosis Care and After Care Committee, affiliated to the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (N.A.P.T.), has continued its activities and during the year ten cases of hardship were helped at a cost of fifty-eight pounds ten shillings.

Progress continues to be made in the provision of suitable housing and a new high level of building was reached during the year. 140 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and dealt with by various means. The occupants of 80 houses, represented in 1956 and early in 1957, were rehoused.

Housing : the problem of making the best use of new Council houses, old Council houses, flats, old people's bungalows and private houses to which the Housing Manager is fortunate enough to be able to allocate tenants, is a matter of team work and experience. Much time and thought is given to this by the Medical Officer of Health of any authority with a housing problem, and numerous investigations are made during the year. Mention is made of only two of many problems. Firstly, with old people it is the rule, not the exception, for some handicap or illness to be present, and a balance has to be struck between the claims of old people for accommodation which were submitted some time ago, and of those who suddenly decide to seek accommodation and press their disabilities as a reason for immediate action. Secondly, there is the problem of the small family overcrowded in rooms or part of a house, generally, with no available garden or drying facilities. These premises are unsuitable for them ; they are not, however, " unfit for human habitation," and would probably be suitable for middle-aged couples without children or single people, but if the young married couples have not qualified for accommodation on the points scheme, it would be unfair if those of them who press their circumstances should be given too much priority over those who registered much earlier, and who have obtained their points on accepted grounds.

Apart from an outbreak of measles and the influenza pandemic, both of which were expected, the infectious diseases do not appear to have been prevalent, but there was in the area a lot of illness probably caused by virus infection known variously as " winter vomiting " disease or 24 or 48 hour " flu " according to type and severity.

The co-operation given by the Staff and received from other departments has been greatly appreciated. Thanks are due to the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer for the efficient way in which certain services, which are of the utmost importance to the health of the town, have been provided. I refer to water supply, sewerage and refuse disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. C. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS, 1957

---

Rateable Value of the Borough ... ..	£616,885
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£2,450
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres ...	8,034
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1957)	47,380
Persons per acre calculated on above population ...	5.9
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1957) ... ..	14,382

	MALE	FEMALE		
Live Births	{ Legitimate 358	351 }	Total	...
	{ Illegitimate 13	13 }		735

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.5
Stillbirths ... ..	17
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births ... ..	22.6
Deaths ... ..	567

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population ... ..	11.9
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal causes ... ..	Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Total Births (live and still) ... ..	Nil
--	-----

INFANT MORTALITY RATE ... ..	24.5
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	22.6
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	76.9
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	100
„ „ Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	Nil



## WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past twenty-eight years, daily readings and weather recordings have been continued at Monkmoor Hospital, where a Climatological Station, approved by the Air Ministry, is situated.

The particulars regarding 1957 may be summarised as follows :—

**Rainfall.**—The total rainfall was 25.85 inches, compared with 23.44, 23.35 and 30.66 inches in the previous years respectively.

The average rainfall over the last 28 years was 25.7 inches.

**Sunshine.**—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,359.7 hours, compared with 1,327.3, 1,589 and 1,232.7 hours in the previous years respectively.

The average sunshine over the last 28 years was 1,355.8 hours.

**Temperatures.**—Extremes of temperatures during the year were :—

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), June 28th, 86°.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), July 7th and 24th, 62°.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), January 1st and December 16th, 35°.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), December 16th, 22°.

# Weather Statistics.

Shrewsbury, 1957.

1957 Month	AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE °F				SUNSHINE IN HOURS			RAINFALL IN INCHES			
	Mean Maximum	Highest Maximum and Date	Mean Minimum	Lowest Minimum and Date	Mean Temperatures	Most Sunshine in one Day	Daily Means	Total Hours	No. of Rainy Days	Greatest fall in one Day	Total Rainfall
Jan. ...	47.8	58° on 4th	36.3	24° on 18th	42.0	6.4 on 6th	1.42	43.9	15	.24 on 31st	1.06
Feb. ...	47.2	54° on 8th	35.5	23° on 20th	41.3	8.1 on 21st	2.83	79.4	21	.27 on 5th	1.82
Mar. ...	55.4	67° on 12th	42.1	29° on 4th & 5th	48.7	9.9 on 21st	2.59	80.4	18	.24 on 19th	1.58
April ...	56.1	65° on 23rd	39.6	33° on 12th, 13th & 14th	47.8	12.3 on 28th	4.74	142.1	5	.24 on 29th	.44
May ...	59.3	69° on 31st	42.0	32° on 7th	50.6	14.3 on 26th	6.29	195.1	14	.27 on 10th	1.45
June ...	70.4	86° on 28th	47.6	37° on 12th	59.0	14.5 on 12th	9.46	283.7	11	.34 on 7th & 9th	1.58
July ...	68.6	83° on 5th	55.2	41° on 11th	61.9	11.8 on 2nd	3.54	109.8	20	1.18 on 20th	3.18
Aug. ...	64.9	77° on 4th	53.0	39° on 29th	58.9	11.1 on 1st	4.19	129.9	18	1.34 on 5th	5.54
Sept. ...	60.8	69° on 22nd	49.0	35° on 30th	54.9	11.4 on 8th	3.71	111.3	18	.97 on 24th	4.77
Oct. ...	57.6	64° on 15th	45.0	32° on 20th	51.3	8.6 on 1st	2.13	66.0	14	.54 on 15th	1.79
Nov. ...	47.9	54° on 28th	38.3	24° on 8th	43.1	7.0 on 7th	1.84	55.3	8	.70 on 3rd	1.69
Dec. ...	46.1	57° on 7th	34.2	22° on 16th	40.1	6.4 on 3rd	2.03	62.8	19	.20 on 10th	.95
								1359.7			25.85

# VITAL STATISTICS 1957 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

Year	Population (estimated) each year by Registrar General	Births		Deaths			
		Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
				Number	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Number	Rate Crude Adjusted
1947 ...	44,110	797	18.1	26	33	483	10.9 —
1948 ...	45,090	777	17.2	25	32	444	9.8 —
1949 ...	45,360	688	15.2	24	35	524	11.5 11.8
1950 ...	45,820	665	14.5	12	18	488	10.6 10.9
1951 ...	45,460	661	14.5	13	20	602	13.2 13.5
1952 ...	45,910	663	14.4	21	32	475	10.3 10.5
1953 ...	46,230	710	15.3	21	30	512	11.1 11.3
1954 ...	47,020	695	14.8	20	29	572	12.2 11.9
1955 ...	46,800	696	14.9	17	26	516	11.0 10.8
1956 ...	46,850	715	15.3	21	29	498	10.6 10.4
1957 ...	47,380	735	15.5	18	24	567	11.9 11.4

## POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1957, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 47,380, compared with 46,850 in the previous year.

## BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1957 was 735, compared with 715, 696 and 695 in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 15.5 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.3, 14.9 and 14.8 in the previous years respectively. Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate became 15.2.

The 735 live births may be analysed as follows :—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate		
Male	...	358	13	}	735
Female	...	351	13		

### Illegitimate Births

There were 26 illegitimate births, compared with 35, 31 and 48 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 0.55 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 3.5 of the total live births.

### Stillbirths

There were 17 stillbirths, compared with 16, 15 and 20 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.36 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 2.3 of the total births.

A comparison of the adjusted birth rate between Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows :—

			Rate per 1,000 Population Live birth
England and Wales	...	...	16.1
SHREWSBURY	...	...	15.2

## DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 567, compared with 498, 516 and 572 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 567 deaths, 284 were males and 283 females.

The crude death rate was 11.9, but, by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate became 11.4.

Of the 567 deaths, 363 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 454 of the 567 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :—

(1) Heart disease	...	...	...	...	199
(2) Other diseases of the Circulatory System, including Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	91
(3) Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	100
(4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respira- tory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	...	...	...	...	61

There were 8 deaths from suicide and 3 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population there were 18 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 6 deaths of children 1 to 14 years of age.

A comparison between the adjusted death rate of Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows :—

	Death Rate per 1,000 Population			
England and Wales	...	...	...	11.5
SHREWSBURY	...	...	...	11.4



### Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1957

[illegible]

## INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 18, compared with 21, 17 and 20 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 24 per 1,000 live births, compared with 29, 26 and 29 in the previous years respectively.

These deaths are analysed by causes and duration of life in the accompanying table.

### Infant Mortality, 1957

Net deaths from stated causes under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity ...	5	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Malformation ...	1	2	—	1	—	4	—	2	1	—	7
Pneumonia ...	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Septicaemia ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Totals ...	7	4	—	1	1	13	—	4	1	—	18



Statistics show that the proportion of births to deaths of the population of the Borough over the last 30 years have remained fairly constant. The birth rate being higher in 1927 and 1947, soon after World Wars I and II, than in 1937 and 1957, the death rate being slightly lower in the same years.

The stillbirth rate has fallen during these 30 years. The fall in the infant mortality has been on parallel lines. There has also been a marked and very welcome decline in the death rate of children from 1 to 15 years of age.

As would be expected with an ageing population, there has been an increase in the number of deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

	1927	1937	1947	1957
Population ... ..	32,780	38,120	44,110	47,380
Birth rate per 1,000 of population...	18.2	15.4	18.1	15.2
Death rate per 1,000 of population	10.4	12.1	10.9	11.4
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births ...	39	41	33	24
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	43	41	33	24
Deaths from 1 year to 15 years— percentage of total deaths ...	7.7	3.9	2.3	1.1
Deaths over 65 years—percentage of total deaths ... ..	50.7	52.7	62.5	64.2

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply

The Water Engineer, Mr. J. H. Sabido, has kindly supplied the following information on the water supply of the town, accompanied by statistics of laboratory examinations carried out at Shelton Waterworks.

“ During the year under review Shelton Head Works have supplied the whole of the Undertaking's water requirements free of all restrictions. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 2,091,368 gallons, which was equivalent to 44.15 gallons per head per day, and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 2,589,000 gallons.

Routine daily Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses were carried out at Shelton on the water at the separate stages of treatment. The maxima and minima results obtained from these examinations are given in the accompanying table.

During the year the practice of taking routine chemical and bacteriological examinations of drinking water samples drawn from householders at random was maintained. One hundred and ninety-three such samples were carried out during the year and all samples were found to be sterile. The water supplied to the Authorised Area has consistently maintained the very high standard of purity demanded for water supplies in this country.

At the beginning of the year the investigations were completed regarding the re-development of Conduit Head as an emergency source of supply and these indicated that consideration could be given to this project as an economic possibility.

The length of new mains laid within the Water Area during the year was 2.5 miles.”

The water supply position of dwelling-houses in the town as computed in the year 1957 may be summarised as follows :—

Total number of houses	...	...	...	15,012
Total number of houses with a Corporation piped supply	...	...	...	14,974
Houses without a piped supply, i.e., from wells or streams	...	...	...	38

# SHELTON WATER SUPPLY

## Results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1957

ITEM	RIVER WATER UNTREATED		WATER AFTER STORAGE AND PRECHLORINATION		WATER AFTER SEDIMENTATION		WATER AFTER FILTRATION AND STERILISATION	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
BACTERIOLOGICAL								
Probable number of coliform bacteria present per 100 mls. ...	25 +	25 +	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 37°C. ...	1,510	1	5	Nil	12	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colony count per ml. at 20°C. ...	3,600	86	12	Nil	23	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chemical Analysis expressed in parts per Million								
Colour (Hazenscale) ...	200	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH ...	8.4	6.4	7.3	4.8	9.6	7.2	8.5	7.0
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	124.0	20.0	110.0	10.0	114.0	28.0	120.0	30.0
Chloride (Cl) ...	54.0	11.0	60.0	15.0	62.0	16.0	64.0	16.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.650	0.025	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 27°C.)	9.76	0.80	2.56	Nil	2.44	Nil	1.64	Nil
Permanent Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	56.0	Nil	74.0	10.0	64.0	14.0	66.0	10.0
Total Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	144.0	30.0	154.0	36.0	154.0	58.0	152.0	60.0
Free Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	4.85	Nil	3.55	Nil	0.25	0.05
Total Residual Chlorine ...	—	—	5.05	Nil	3.75	Nil	0.35	0.08

## Swimming Baths

During the year the water in the swimming baths was examined bacteriologically on 19 occasions. Of these, 4 samples were not considered satisfactory.

## Drainage, Closet Accommodation, Sewerage and Public Cleansing

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. A. T. Morris, has kindly supplied the following information :—

“ **Main Drainage.**—Two existing houses were connected to the sewer during the year, and 1 new house was erected without connection to the sewerage system.

A new sewer has been constructed at Bicton Heath to some houses in Pump Lane, Welshpool Road, and the northerly end of Racecourse Lane. This sewer is connected through an Ejector Station into the main sewerage system. Other sewers have been extended to serve the Field House and Mount Pleasant Estates being developed by Fletcher Estates (Harlescott) Ltd.

“ **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—A new refuse tip has been opened at Castle Walk, Underdale Road, and controlled tipping is in operation. It is estimated that this new tip will serve the needs of the town for at least 7 years.”

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1957 is as follows :—

Total number of houses in the Borough ... ..		15,012
Number of houses connected to Corporation sewers ... ..	14,641	} 14,879
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g., cesspits, septic tanks ... ..	238	
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets		133

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. C. Stanley, submits the following report :—

“ Steady progress was maintained and 6 areas, consisting of 109 houses in all, were declared to be Clearance Areas.

The largest of these sites—Maddox Buildings, New Street—included 54 houses. It was considered suitable for redevelopment.

The remaining areas were Binnall Terrace, Boathouse Yard, Longden Coleham, Britannia Place, Colley's Row and Fairford Place.

Five Demolition Orders and 13 Closing Orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses. Undertakings, not to re-let for human habitation, were accepted for 13 similar dwellings.

Two caravans, subject to Demolition Orders, were demolished by the owner.

---

On the 6th July the Rent Act, 1957, came into force. Presumably, this measure was designed to maintain rented dwellings in a good state of repair and to increase the number of rented houses.

The procedure regarding Certificates of Disrepair was altered. The tenant must now serve a notice on the landlord, specifying the defects which he feels should be remedied, before he may apply to the Local Authority for a certificate.

Thus, the listing of defects by the Public Health Inspector is a thing of the past and, in the event of an application for a certificate being received, the Inspector has to give an opinion as to the reasonableness or otherwise of the tenant's listed items.

Certificates were issued in respect of 14 applications, undertakings were given by owners in 3 cases, and 1 application was refused.

---

The construction of a sewer in the Bickton Heath district allowed for the commencement of a scheme to drain certain properties hitherto served by septic tanks, cesspools or pail-closets.

It is of interest to note that, over 100 years after the introduction of the first water-closet, so many pail-closets are to be found throughout the country. Progress in this direction has, to say the least, been slow.

---

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1957, made it illegal, after the 25th November, for any milk other than specially designated milk to be sold by retail in the Shrewsbury area. The Council's officials and retailers had anticipated this progressive step, and the necessary adjustments were made smoothly and quickly.

Milk supplies, generally, were good. Keeping quality showed an improvement on the previous year, and chemical analysis revealed fewer fat deficiencies.



Two prosecutions were taken where milk had been supplied for consumption on the premises. In one case (milk containing 19% of added water) the defendants pleaded guilty and the Magistrates imposed a fine of £10. In the other case (milk 40% deficient in fat) the defendants pleaded not guilty, and a fine of £10, with £3 costs, was incurred.

It is important that a person consuming food on the premises obtains what he pays for—particularly in the case of milk, where the normal water content is high.

---

On the 1st June the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, became operative.

Collectors of waste, with a few exceptions, are now required to boil the material in an approved plant before feeding or redistributing for the purpose of animal feeding.

Local authorities, and persons not having more than 4 weaned pigs and 50 head of poultry, boiling waste food on their premises for consumption by their own stock are exempted.

It was thought that the Public Health Inspectors should undertake the inspection work, and licences were granted in 27 cases.

In some instances it was necessary for the applicant to carry out certain works before the licence was granted.

---

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, is administered by the Public Health Committee. From 1952, it has been a legal requirement for Pet Shop Traders to obtain an annual licence.

The principal provisions of the Act concern the keeping of animals, including birds, under suitable hygienic and environmental conditions in Pet Shops.

Four such premises were licensed in 1957, and they operated in a very satisfactory manner.

---

Working conditions in factories and shops were, on the whole, satisfactory. Office accommodation, in some instances, left much to be desired. Health Officers would welcome effective legislation to provide a reasonable standard for office-workers who contribute so much in a humble way to the life of the nation.

---

All the routine work associated with a Public Health Inspector's vocation was given due attention. Some indication of its coverage is shown by the following figures."

### Complaints received during the Year

There were 616 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

Nature of Complaint	Number Received.
Housing Defects   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	109
Defective Dustbins   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	2
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers...   ...   ...	105
Accumulations of Offensive Matter   ...   ...   ...	13
Relative to Unsound Food ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	94
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Bugs and Fleas   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	3
(b) Rats and Mice Infestations   ...   ...   ...	167
(c) Beetles, Crickets, and Other Insects   ...   ...	34
Keeping of Animals and Poultry ...   ...   ...   ...	6
Miscellaneous   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	83
Total   ...   ...   ...	616



### Premises Inspected

The following summary indicates the number of inspections of various premises carried out during the year :—

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Dwelling-houses under Public Health Acts ... ..	1,380
Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts ... ..	1,581
Infected Dwelling-houses :—	
(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) ...	39
(b) Contacts ... ..	22
(c) Fumigations after infectious diseases ... ..	4
(d) Phthisis enquiries and fumigations ... ..	16
Elementary Schools and Church Halls ... ..	8
Business Premises ... ..	217
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Billiard Halls ... ..	23
Fairgrounds ... ..	6
Factories Acts :—	
Factories, with mechanical power ... ..	351
Factories, without mechanical power ... ..	62
Works of Engineering and building construction... ..	12
Outworkers' premises ... ..	39
Smoke observations ... ..	65
Offensive Trade Premises ... ..	16
Stables, Piggeries, Keeping of Animals ... ..	186
Houses let in Lodgings ... ..	15
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	340
Drainage : Testing by	
Smoke ... ..	6
Water ... ..	4
Coloured Water ... ..	99
Breaking down ... ..	13
re Public Sewers ... ..	594
Drainage Work in Progress ... ..	130
Means of Escape in case of Fire (S.60, Public Health Act, 1936)	2
Watercourses and Ditches ... ..	119
Land and Tips ... ..	87
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Urinals... ..	117
Water Supplies ... ..	6
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	523
Visits, not Inspections ... ..	590

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Verminous Premises :—	
(a) Rats and Mice (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949) ... ..	461
(b) Bug Infestations ... ..	9
(c) Beetles ... ..	38
(d) Other Vermin ... ..	64
Inspections <i>re</i> Supervision of Food :—	
Unfit Foodstuffs other than Meat ... ..	264
Slaughterhouses ... ..	39
Markets ... ..	155
Food Vehicles... ..	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—	
Bakehouses ... ..	63
Butchers' Shops ... ..	313
Factory Canteens ... ..	11
Restaurant Kitchens, etc. ... ..	191
Licensed Premises ... ..	165
Other Premises ... ..	825
Sampling ... ..	190
Section 16 :—	
Sausage Manufacturers ... ..	107
Preserved Meat Preparation Premises ... ..	82
Fish Friers' Premises ... ..	123
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	291
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54 :—	
Milk Sampling for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test for Tuberculosis ... ..	206
Contraventions of Milk and Dairies Regulations ... ..	3
Dairies at Farms ... ..	2
Milkshops and other Dairies ... ..	153
Shops Act, 1950, and Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938	
Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..	
Total Visits by Public Health Inspectors ... ..	
	11,567

## Notices Served

Administrative action was taken during the year to secure abatement of nuisances and to enforce the appropriate statutory enactments as follows :—

Subject of Notice	Public Health Acts	Milk and Dairies Regs.	Food and Drugs Act 1955	Factories Act, 1937	Shops Acts
Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	80	—	93	7	—
Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ..	100	—	169	8	—
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises) ... ..	19	—	19	4	—
Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..	97	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ... ..	63	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises) ... ..	50	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	—	—	2	—	—

# Sanitary Improvements Effected at Dwelling-houses as a Result of Statutory and Informal Notices Issued

(Number of premises, 105)

	Number Complied with
Defective drains ... ..	3
Choked drains ... ..	5
Insufficient closet accommodation ... ..	—
Absence of proper sink ... ..	—
Defective water closets ... ..	10
Defective gullies ... ..	—
Defective sink ... ..	—
Defective sink waste pipes ... ..	8
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings ... ..	8
Burst water pipes ... ..	—
Insufficient water supply... ..	1
Defective soil pipes ... ..	2
Dampness arising from :—	
Defective roofs ... ..	32
Defective eaves-gutters ... ..	12
Defective down-spouts ... ..	12
Defective brickwork and pointing ... ..	10
Defective damp-proof courses ... ..	—
Defective yard paving ... ..	5
Defective chimney flues ... ..	3
Galvanized metal dustbins provided ... ..	—
Defective window-frames and sash-cords ... ..	5
Defective floors ... ..	9
Defective stairs ... ..	2
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings ... ..	18
Defective doors ... ..	10
Defective fireplaces and cooking ranges ... ..	5
Defective wash-boilers ... ..	—
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks ... ..	—
Defective and bulging external walls ... ..	—
Defective and bulging party walls ... ..	2
Filthy condition of premises ... ..	1
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter ... ..	2
Miscellaneous ... ..	6

## Additional Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied by Verbal Intimations

Nature of Inspection	No. of Premises	Structural Defects	Dirty Conditions
Dwelling-houses (Public Health Acts)	27	22	5
Restaurant Kitchens ... ..	3	—	3
Bakehouses ... ..	3	1	2
Other Food Preparation Premises ... ..	8	5	3
Butchers' Shops ... ..	5	3	2
Hotel Bars ... ..	—	—	—
Business Premises ... ..	16	15	1
Factories (Factories Act, 1937) ... ..	1	—	1
Ice Cream Premises (Sale/Man.) ... ..	—	—	—
Shops (Shops Act) ... ..	2	2	—
Dairies ... ..	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances... ..	9	9	—
Caravans ... ..	—	—	—

**FACTORY ACTS, 1937 AND 1948**

The following statistics, required under the provisions of this legislation, are appended :—

**Part I of the Act**

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	25	62	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	184	351	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (exclud- ing out-workers' premises) ... ..	18	12	—	—
Total ... ..	227	425	—	—

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	—	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	1	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	17	—	9	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... ..	—	2	—	—	—
Total ... ..	11	24	—	12	—

**Part VIII of the Act**  
**Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)**

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel-making, etc. ...	36	—	—	—	—	—



## HOUSING

### Building Progress during 1957

Houses erected by Local Authority ...	280	} 485
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	205	

### Housing Statistics

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1,314
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	142
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	89

#### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their offices ...	88
--	----

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	66
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners ...	44
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Proceedings under the Housing Acts 1936 and 1957 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	7
(2) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 16	
(4) Housing Act, 1957 ...	13

#### Corporation Housing Estates

The Housing Manager, Mr. E. Woodhead, has provided the following report concerning the work of the Housing Department :

“ **Applications.**—At 31st December, 1957, the number of applications outstanding was a figure of 1,523 as against 1,863 on 31st December, 1956. This is a decrease of 340. The decrease is largely due to the fact that in September, 1957, a review of our applications file was commenced, and as is usual in all reviews the figure falls.



The following is an analysis of the new applications file :

**Analysis of outstanding Applications in Family Unit Form**

	In Rooms		Tenants		Owners		Total	
Childless Couples ...	(400)	254	(350)	199	(38)	19	(788)	472
Bungalow Cases ...	(—)	31	(—)	117	(—)	20	(—)	168
One Child ...	(255)	181	(257)	266	(26)	23	(538)	470
Two Children ...	(81)	58	(224)	173	(13)	13	(318)	244
Three Children ...	(25)	15	(87)	85	(10)	3	(122)	103
Four Children ...	(10)	4	(43)	25	(4)	4	(57)	33
Five Children & over	(4)	3	(35)	28	(1)	2	(40)	33
Totals ...	(775)	546	(996)	893	(92)	84	(1,863)	1,523

Numbers in brackets denote totals as at December, 1956.

No previous figures for bungalow cases are given, as hitherto bungalow and childless couple cases have been listed together.

**“Allocations.**—During 1957, house production improved on the previous year, there being a total of 280 Corporation dwellings completed. In order to maintain the movement of Clearance Areas, transfers and exchanges have been reasonably well maintained, and these total 240.

During the year 80 Clearance Houses were re-housed : Frankwell, Child's Row, Roushill Bank, Moreton Crescent, Bull's Row, Straphen's Court, Derfald and Crewe Street, M.A.P. Bungalows at Crowmere Road, and individual houses were cleared. In the process of clearing these properties, local house owners and agents again contributed most valuable assistance to the success of the re-housing operation. I feel that their good offices in this direction not only assisted the specific tenants from these Clearance properties, but the general housing position within the Borough, and I am looking forward to their continued assistance in order to meet the situation over the next few years.”

**MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN**

The Superintendent, Mr. E. A. Andrews, has provided the following report for the year 1957 :—

“ In order to meet the increased costs the charges were raised in January from 24/- to 27/- per week, and from 3/6 to 4/- per night. This has caused no fall in the numbers using the hostel.

	1956	1957
Total No. of men paying weekly charge ...	1,912	1,528
Total No. of men paying daily charge ...	952	1,435
Nightly average No. of beds occupied ...	37	37

There are four Old Age Pensioners paying 17/6 per week.

**Regular Lodgers.**—Of the 41 beds available for use two-thirds are occupied by permanent lodgers, leaving about 12 beds for temporary lodgers.

Most of the “regulars” are of middle age; men of settled habits who have followed the same employment for a number of years. Among them may be found railway employees, drovers, engineers, agriculture and general labourers, etc.

**Temporary Lodgers.**—Temporary lodgers consist chiefly of skilled and unskilled workers employed on building sites or other undertakings by public works contractors.

Usually they work longer hours than the regulars, consequently receiving higher wages. Their sojourn in the hostel will depend upon the duration of the job and also on the “rate for the job.”

Another temporary lodger is the “casual”—the modern equivalent of the pre-war wayfarer. He is usually a young man. He is much better dressed than his predecessor and carries a suit-case rather than a bundle over his shoulder. His method of travel is by hitch-hiking and he takes his meal in the transport cafe rather than by the hedge-side.

He is alert and knowledgeable regarding his rights and never appears unduly distressed about his inability to find work.

He may visit the hostel once or twice a year and may stay from three to seven nights.”

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

### **Milk Supply**

At the close of the year there were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations :—

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	14
Retail purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	...	47

### **Examination for Tubercle Bacillus**

Cultural and animal tests were made on 10 samples—all of which were negative.

### **Turbidity Test**

The eight samples proved satisfactory.

### **Phosphatase Test**

The twenty-nine samples proved satisfactory.

### **Methylene Blue Test**

One hundred and thirty samples were subjected to the methylene blue test. Subsequent sampling, in the case of twenty-five adverse reports, gave satisfactory results. Three samples were declared void.

**Ice Cream**

Premises registered for sale and manufacture	...	1
Premises registered for sale only	... ..	151
Premises registered for store only	... ..	2

Thirty-eight samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. The results are tabulated below :—

No. of Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Void
38	33	2	2	—	1

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955**

The 141 samples of food and drugs, submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, comprised 26 milk samples (all formal), 100 foods other than milk (1 formal and 99 informal), and 15 drugs (all informal).

Some 133 were returned as genuine and 8 as not genuine, of which 5 were milk, 2 food and 1 drug.

An additional 94 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. Ten of these showed a fat content deficiency, but follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

The following tabulated statements give particulars of the articles sampled.

**(A) MILK**

Number of milk samples...	...	26
Number found genuine	...	21
Number found not genuine	...	5

Remarks on samples returned as not genuine :

1. Fat 2.4%. Solids not fat 6.9%. Deficient of 20% of fat and below for solids not fat. Contains 19% added water.  
(Vendor fined £10).
2. Fat 1.8%. Solids not fat 8.1%. Deficient of 40% of fat.  
(Vendor fined £10 with costs).
3. Fat 2.7%. Solids not fat 7.9%. Deficient of 10% of fat and below for solids not fat. No added water. Confirmed by freezing point test. Follow-up sample of No. 2. Would require removal of 37% fat to reduce it to the same as No. 2.  
(From a consignment which averaged 2.96% milk fat).
4. Fat 2.7%. Solids not fat 8.0%. Deficient of 10% of fat and below for solids not fat. No added water. Confirmed by freezing point test.  
("Appeal-to-Cow" samples averaged 2.74%).
5. Fat 2.15%. Solids not fat 8.8%. Deficient of 28% fat.  
("Appeal-to-Cow" samples showed an average of 2.56% fat).

**(B) FOOD**

Number of food samples (other than milk) ...	100
Number found genuine ... ..	98
Number found not genuine ... ..	2

<b>Name and Number of Articles sampled.</b>	<b>Informal</b>
Beef Suet ... ..	1
Beet ... ..	1
Black Pudding ... ..	1
Butter ... ..	2
Buttered Eclairs (Rum flavoured) ... ..	1
Candied Peel ... ..	1
Chewing Gum ... ..	1
Christmas Pudding ... ..	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence ... ..	1
Cooking Fat ... ..	1
Cream ... ..	1
Currants ... ..	1
Curry Powder ... ..	1
Cut Peel ... ..	1
Cydapple ... ..	1
Damson Jam ... ..	1
Dehydrated Mixed Vegetables ... ..	1
Dehydrated Peas ... ..	1
Double Cream ... ..	2
Dressed Crab ... ..	1
Dried Peas ... ..	1
Extract of Malt and Cod Liver Oil ... ..	1
Fish Cakes ... ..	1
Flavouring Essence—Almond ... ..	1
Flavouring Essence—Lemon ... ..	1
French Coffee and Chicory ... ..	1
Gelatine ... ..	1
Glaze Cherries ... ..	1
Ground Almonds ... ..	1
Ground Ginger ... ..	2
Ground Nutmegs ... ..	1
Honey ... ..	1
Ice Cream ... ..	8
Iced Lolly ... ..	1
Lemon Crystals ... ..	1
Luncheon Meat ... ..	1
Malt Vinegar ... ..	1
Marzipan ... ..	1
Milk Food (Full Cream) ... ..	1
Minced Beef ... ..	1
Minced Turkey ... ..	1

Mixed Pickling Spice	...	...	...	...	1
Mixture of Milk Food	...	...	...	...	1
Orangeade	...	...	...	...	1
Orange Drink	...	...	...	...	1
Peaches	...	...	...	...	1
Pineapple Flavouring	...	...	...	...	1
Potato Crisps	...	...	...	...	1
Raisin Flavour Wine	...	...	...	...	1
Raisins	...	...	...	...	1
Rhubarb and Ginger Jam	...	...	...	...	1
Rich Ruby Wine	...	...	...	...	1
Sausages	...	...	...	...	17
Scotch Broth	...	...	...	...	1
Self Raising Flour	...	...	...	...	1
Soy Sauce	...	...	...	...	1
Steak and Kidney Pie	...	...	...	...	1
Stoned Raisins	...	...	...	...	1
Stuffing with Shredded Suet	...	...	...	...	1
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	1
Sweet Pickle	...	...	...	...	1
Table Jelly	...	...	...	...	1
Table Jelly Crystals	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	1
Thyme and Parsley with Beef Suet	...	...	...	...	1
Tinned Salmon	...	...	...	...	1
Tomato Juice	...	...	...	...	1
Tomato Ketchup	...	...	...	...	1
Tomato Paste	...	...	...	...	1
Tomato Piquant	...	...	...	...	1
Tonic Water	...	...	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	1
Wrapped Oranges	...	...	...	...	1
					<b>Formal</b>
Gin...	...	...	...	...	1

#### Remarks on Samples returned as not genuine

1. Beef Sausage Meat content 51%. Sulphur Dioxide 270 parts per million. Notice of the presence of preservative should be given. (Vendor notified and notice subsequently displayed).
2. Beef Sausage Meat content 54%. Sulphur Dioxide 290 parts per million. Notice of the presence of preservative should be given. (Vendor notified and notice subsequently displayed).





### Public Abattoir

The accompanying table classifies the work carried out by the Superintendent, Mr. S. R. Reed, and his assistant :—

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	12,500	1,231	2,899	48,553	25,555	—
Number inspected ... ..	12,500	1,231	2,899	48,553	25,555	—
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	5	72	94	89	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,890	289	116	600	1,166	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	15.14	23.88	6.48	1.43	4.91	—
<b>Tuberculosis only :</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	21	6	—	—	13	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	781	127	—	—	265	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	6.42	10.80	—	—	1.09	—
<b>Cysticercosis :</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	35	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration ...	35	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diseased and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcasses and offal of 52 tons, 10 cwts., 4 lbs., given in the following table.

#### CARCASSES AND PARTS

Beef ... ..	26,066 lbs.
Veal ... ..	2,929 lbs.
Mutton and Lamb ... ..	5,800 lbs.
Pork ... ..	16,254 lbs.
OFFAL ... ..	66,555 lbs.



### Unsound Food

The following foodstuffs, being unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered for destruction :—

Fish	...	...	...	...	250 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	...	947 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Preserved Goods	...	...	...	...	2,434	tins and jars
Cheese	...	...	...	...	252 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	76	lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	1,026	lbs.
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	680 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Other Meat	...	...	...	...	80	lbs.
Fowl	...	...	...	...	26	

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Influenza

As was expected, the pandemic of influenza of the Asian type affected this country early in Autumn 1957 and spread rapidly throughout the country.

The General Practitioners were the first to notify the presence of the disease in this area. This information was closely followed by news of large numbers of absent pupils from the Technical College, probably the first school affected in the town. The Ministry of National Insurance soon gave notice of a 30% increase of sickness benefit claims.

Serological and cultural examination of specimens from some early cases showed them to be infected with Type A (Asian) influenza.

In the early stages of the epidemic a preponderance of patients of school age was noted.

The general feature of the illness as described by practitioners seems to have been much the same as has been reported from other parts of the country ; sudden onset with severe constitutional upset, but few physical signs apart from high temperature, and short duration. Recovery was often held up by too early resumption of activity.

A very small percentage of cases developed pneumonia, only 13 being notified. Practitioners generally withheld antibiotics except in the elderly and debilitated youngsters, but it is thought that administration of sulphonamides and antibiotics when the onset of complications was suspected may have prevented the onset

or cut short many pneumonias. Apart from pneumonia, complications seem to have been few. The possibility of Anterior Poliomyelitis being present at the same time as Influenza (3 cases occurred during the epidemic quarter) made diagnosis difficult and called for extra care where headache was extremely severe as frequently happened.

Twelve deaths from influenza were notified during 1957, 2 under 20 years of age, 3 between 45 and 65, and 7 over 65.

During the early weeks of the epidemic arrangements were made by the County Health and Welfare Departments to help families in which all the adults were ill and no "good neighbour" help was forthcoming. Fortunately this service was not required.

Vaccine was issued for doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and home helps as soon as possible.

The peak of the epidemic appears to have been reached, as far as can be ascertained, in mid-October, but the epidemic while not showing a definite second wave, as was feared, did not burn itself out until March or April 1958. Many people had two attacks of "flu."

Enquiries from large employers of labour indicated that 10% of employees was about the highest level of absence in any one week, and that the first half of October was the peak period.

Study of the absence figures at the time and retrospectively of the school population of the Borough, with the co-operation of the Divisional Executive Officer, showed a sudden rise in absence rate soon after the beginning of the Christmas term. The absence rate fell towards the end of October and stayed fairly steady for the rest of the term.

	Percentage Absence rate			
Week ending 22.9.57	...	...	...	9.9
27.9.57	...	...	...	20.0
4.10.57	...	...	...	28.3
11.10.57	...	...	...	32.4
18.10.57	...	...	...	22.8
25.10.57	...	...	...	13.2

The average attendance for the term was 86.9%, compared with 91.5% over the year and 92.6% during the autumn term of 1956.

Enquiries as to the incidence of influenza from children over 11 were made at the end of the Christmas term during the last week of the term. It was thought that personal verbal enquiries would give more accurate results as to illness than would assessment of absence from records as older children might have been kept at home to look after other members of the family or to avoid infection.

The figures obtained were as follows :—

School	Number of pupils questioned	Percentage that had suffered from influenza	Percentage absent for more than 1 week	Percentage absent for less than 1 week	Percentage not affected
Priory Boys' Grammar	307	71	29	42	29
Priory Girls' Grammar	356	78	33	45	22
Monkmoor Secondary Modern Boys' ...	404	77	32	45	23
Monkmoor Secondary Modern Girls' ...	397	74	34	40	26
Meole Brace Secondary Modern Mixed ...	244	71	38	34	29
Total ...	1 708	74	33	41	26

The figures obtained showed little difference between different schools and indicate that three-quarters of the children were affected and in quite a high proportion the illness was severe enough to cause more than 1 week's loss of schooling.

**Anterior Poliomyelitis.**—Eight cases of " Polio " were notified during the year. Of these 4 were non-paralytic and recovery was, as far as is known, complete. Four were paralytic and all these have a moderate degree of residual paralysis. There were no deaths.

No definite connection was found between the 8 cases or other known cases.

Although immunisation against this disease is being performed to an increasing extent, the practices believed to be of use in limiting the spread of the disease and minimising the likelihood of the disease breaking out in a community should be continued. As in all communicable diseases accurate knowledge of the life cycle of the infecting agent and its mode of spread is invaluable in assessing the best method of controlling the disease.

It would seem advisable, now that the safety and efficiency of the available vaccines have been agreed, to try to vaccinate a larger proportion of the population and it is hoped that more of those especially at risk, expectant mothers and school children, will accept immunisation.

The numbers immunised during 1957 are shown.

It is thought that, with a high proportion of the populace immunised, and efficient prevention of case to case spread of infection, which is dependent on accurate knowledge of the mode of spread of the infection, this disease can be controlled.

**Diphtheria.**—No case of diphtheria has been notified in the Borough during the last 7 years.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. No case was admitted to hospital.

**Measles.**—Seven hundred and seventeen cases of measles occurred during the year. The epidemic which started in November 1956 reached the peak by March and declined fairly rapidly. Seven cases, less than 1 per cent of those affected were admitted to hospital and no deaths occurred. Most cases were typical measles and few complications or after effects appear to have been observed.

**Whooping Cough.**—Forty-eight cases of whooping cough were notified and 2 were admitted to hospital.

Many children were immunised against this disease. It will be of great interest to see if the incidence of whooping cough shows a really marked decline in the next 5 to 10 years and if the incidence of certain conditions which may have some relation in their causation to lung damage resulting from spasmodic increases of inter-alveolar pressure affecting the lungs during severe spasms of coughing, declines a few years later. I refer to bronchitis, bronchiectasis and emphysema.

**Dysentery.**—Three cases of dysentery were notified. No explanation can be offered for the absence of this infection which is generally common, widespread and easily "handed on."

**Food Poisoning.**—Two cases of food poisoning were notified. The infecting organism in one case was due to *Salmonella Typhi* Murium, but in the other case the cause was unknown.

The incidence of other notifiable diseases during the year was low, but winter vomiting disease was prevalent in the first and fourth quarters of the year.



**Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1957**  
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

MONTH	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Acute Pneumonia		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Food Poisoning
			Primary	Influenzal	Paralytic	Non Paralytic					
January	1	1	4	—	1	—	106	5	—	—	—
February	—	3	—	—	—	—	189	4	1	—	1
March	—	3	3	—	—	—	236	19	—	—	—
April	—	—	1	—	—	—	117	4	—	—	—
May	—	2	1	—	—	—	47	—	—	1	—
June	—	—	1	—	—	1	15	1	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	8	—	—	—
August	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	5	—	2	1
September	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	—	4	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
December	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	16	10	13	4	4	717	48	1	3	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE  
YEAR, 1957

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified										Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	At Ages—Years									
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & up-wards	
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever... ..	16	—	1	2	11	—	1	1	—	—	—
Typhus Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic ... ..	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	4
Non-Paralytic ... ..	4	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary ... ..	10	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	3	—	1
Acute Influenzal ... ..	13	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	7	1	1
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Encephalitis—											
Infective ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ... ..	717	15	130	181	375	11	4	—	1	—	7
Whooping Cough ... ..	48	5	13	11	18	1	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Totals ... ..	819	22	147	197	410	16	9	4	11	3	22

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1 ... ..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4 ... ..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ... ..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ... ..			1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—34 ... ..			1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ... ..			—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ... ..			1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ... ..			1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards ... ..			1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ... ..			5	6	2	2	2	1	—	—



Of the three deaths from Tuberculosis, one was not notified before death.

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death Rate for the year was 0.06 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.04 in the previous year.

Vaccination against tuberculosis has been practised for many years, and has recently been used widely in this country. Following satisfactory early reports on the protection afforded to adolescents by vaccination, the Shropshire County Council decided to offer vaccination against tuberculosis to their school children between the ages of 13 and 14. A start to this work was made during 1956 in Shrewsbury, and up-to-date 938 children have been immunised by the School Service Staff.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly provided the following figures relating to the work done in Shrewsbury during 1957.

#### B.C.G. Vaccination (1957)

Number of children in age group selected (approx.)	1,762
Number accepting vaccination ... ..	1,002
Number found positive ... ..	177
Number found negative ... ..	764
Number vaccinated with B.C.G. ... ..	762
Number converted to positive ... ..	708
Number not re-tested ... ..	52

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

				Immunisations
Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	164
	By General Practitioners	...	...	262
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	40
	By General Practitioners	...	...	22
Total				488
				Reinforcing Injection
	At Clinic	...	...	324
	By General Practitioners	...	...	126
Total				450

#### Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	138
	By General Practitioners	...	...	265
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	6
	By General Practitioners	...	...	11
Total				420

**Tetanus**

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	129
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	225
School Children :	At Clinic	...	...	...	12
	By General Practitioners	...	...	...	12
Total					378

**Poliomyelitis**

Number of children inoculated	...	...	...	...	417
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**Vaccination (Smallpox)**

		Children under				
Primary	{	1 year of age :	At Clinic	...	...	171
			By General Practitioners	...	...	176
	{	Others :	At Clinic	...	...	18
			By General Practitioners	...	...	87
			Total	...	...	452
<hr/>						
Re-Vaccination :		At Clinic	...	...	...	5
		By General Practitioners	...	...	...	98
			Total	...	...	103
<hr/>						

**DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION**

A summary of work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in connection with infectious disease, disinfection and disinfestation is as follows :—

Visits made in connection with infectious disease	...	81
Disinfection carried out after Tuberculosis	...	5

Five houses were disinfested by Corporation employees working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

The type of infestation was as undermentioned :—

Bugs	...	...	...	...	2 houses
Fleas	...	...	...	...	3 houses

**DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE**

At the end of the year the number of premises under contract with the Corporation for disinfestation was as follows :—

Business premises	...	...	...	41
Private dwelling-houses	...	...	...	3

No major infestation was discovered.

The Rodent operative made 1,267 visits to premises in the course of his duties during the year.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 AND 1951**

### **Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention**

It was found necessary to make application for compulsory removal to hospital of one person. After a few weeks this person returned home in much better health.

### **OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE**

The Shrewsbury Old People's Welfare Committee has continued to function during 1957, and I am indebted to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary for permission to include these observations on the different aspects of the work of this Committee.

### **Friendly Visiting Scheme**

Good progress has been made with the Friendly Visiting Scheme. Visitors' Committees exist in most areas, and are in various stages of development. The plan followed by each of these committees is to make a survey of their district to find where all old people are living, making a note of any who are found to be lonely, infirm or in any other way in need of assistance. Visitors are recruited and arrangements made to visit the lonely regularly, while at the same time steps are taken to meet other needs which come to light. Visitors are "briefed" and in particular they are asked to notice the eating habits of the old people and to be on the look out for dangerous spots in the homes. Many old people have been found to be suffering from malnutrition, and in the older houses many hazards exist which could bring disaster to anyone no longer young; in particular, staircases are often extremely dangerous and badly lighted, and no handrails or safety devices of any kind exist. The sanitary arrangements also are often most inconvenient—even dangerous—entailing quite long and sometimes tortuous journeys.

The visitors encourage old people to go out as much as they can and to keep in touch with contemporary life and with their hobby interests. Some of the old people have already improved in health and well-being and all but a very few appear to welcome the Visiting Scheme.

### **Chiropody Scheme**

The Chiropody Scheme, organised in co-operation with the British Red Cross Society, is flourishing and it seems likely that the "ceiling" of the amount of work the three Chiropodists can do for the old people will soon be reached. Over a hundred and fifty old people of small income now have the benefit of regular foot care, a few in their own homes, and some being transported free of charge by Red Cross drivers. New cases come in regularly. Shrewsbury Dispensary Fund has already given grants to more than half the old people in the Scheme.

### **Wireless Scheme**

A Wireless Scheme was launched early this year. An appeal for wireless sets produced two new sets from a local firm and eighteen older sets from members of the public. These were all examined free of charge by this firm. Many were found to be uneconomic, but nine of the sets were considered suitable and were overhauled. Four sets have been loaned to lonely old people and as soon as possible two or three other requests will be met. The Brotherhood of Cheerful Sparrows, which has been most kind in paying the licence charge in cases of old people who would find this a hardship, are co-operating in our Scheme. The need for a wireless set is notified in the first place through the Visiting Service. No doubt much more could be done if more funds and helpers were available to organise the scheme.

### **Market Stall**

The Hon. Secretary of the Old People's Welfare Committee helps at the market stall organised by the Women's Institutes, on Saturday mornings, from 8.0 a.m. till nine or ten o'clock when the country buses bring reinforcements. This is done to encourage old people to bring produce from their allotments or gardens to sell through the stall. Some old people already do so and it is hoped that during the coming summer and autumn many more will take advantage of this way of augmenting their income. The Old People's Welfare Committee felt that it was much better to co-operate with the Women's Institute in this venture than to branch out alone as was originally planned.

### **Workshop for Old People**

For the past year, Shrewsbury Old People's Welfare Committee has been examining the possibility of establishing a Workshop where Old People could earn a little money and also enjoy the companionship of others at regular times each week. Such workshops have been set up in various parts of the country and are not only much appreciated by the old people, but are also of great value from a therapeutic point of view. The great drawback to such a scheme is, of course, financial. In the initial stages, a good deal of money would be needed to equip the place and to keep it going until it was as nearly self-supporting as possible. It was agreed that in a place like Shrewsbury, a Centre would need to combine several different types of work in order to keep it going; these would include repair work, contract jobs for firms and craft work which could be sold as part of the scheme. There is no doubt, however, that the scheme would be an expensive one and the sub-committee is still working hard on it, to arrive at a workable "plan" which can be placed before the committee and, when agreed by the committee, before a "working party" entrusted with the task of getting it going.



## **Old People's Gardens**

Some time ago, an attempt was made to recruit young people's groups who would be prepared to assist old people in preparing and planting their gardens, particularly those old people who have been housed on the new estates. It was found, however, that the size of the gardens made such a scheme impracticable and the Committee decided to wait until the Housing authorities had done the work of grassing and levelling. Visitors reported that, in the main, old people do not want large gardens and, for the most part, become very distressed at the need for maintaining anything more than a small patch on which they can raise a few flowers. Young relatives and friends to-day all have gardens of their own and in any case seem so fully occupied that they have little time to give to the work of helping their elders with unnecessarily large plots. If the old folks had smaller gardens it might be possible to organise groups of school and other young boys and girls to help them with the digging and other similar work.

## **General Report**

Generally speaking, the work of the Old People's Welfare Committee has expanded and is expanding enormously and, the Committee feels, on the right lines. Every effort is being made to enable old people to remain happy and contented in their own homes for as long as possible. Domiciliary services are growing. The great need is for more helpers ready to shoulder responsibility and for more financial assistance, particularly regular financial assistance, on which the Committee could rely.

## INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
Abattoir, Public	34
Area of Borough	6
Births	10
Closet Accommodation	17
Complaints received	20
Deaths	11
Deaths, Causes of	12
Deaths, Infant	13
Diphtheria Immunisation	41
Disinfection and Disinfestation	42
Drainage	17
Factory Acts	25
Food and Drugs Acts	30
Housing	27
Housing, Corporation Estates	27
Ice Cream	30
Inspection and Supervision of Food	29
Infectious and Other Diseases	35
Milk Supply	29
Municipal Hostel	28
National Assistance Acts	43
Old Peoples Welfare Committee	43
Pest Destruction	42
Population	10
Public Cleansing	17
Rateable Value	6
Sanitary Circumstances of Area	15
Sanitary Inspection	17
Sewerage	17
Staff	3
Statistics, General	6
Statistics, Vital	9
Stillbirths	10
Swimming Baths	17
Tuberculosis	40
Water Supply	16
Weather Conditions	7
Whooping Cough Immunisation	41
Vaccination	41









